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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 FAA-00 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /160 W
---------- 005495
R 151911Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8750
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 16595

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, ETRN, WB, GE, YO, DA, NL
SUBJECT: NORTH-SOUTH FLIGHTS TO BERLIN

REF: (A) STATE 214584 (NOTAL); (B) BONN 15980 (NOTAL):
(C) STATE 195331 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN NOVEMBER 14 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG WELCOMED US INITIATIVE IN RE-OPENING QUESTION OF NORTH-SOUTH FLIGHTS TO BERLIN. FRENCH REP SAW NO PROSPECT THAT ANY NATO MEMBER COULD OBTAIN THE NECESSARY GDR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS BUT THOUGHT YUGOSLAVS MAY AND WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THEM WSB LANDING RIGHTS, AND BRITISH REP VERY RELUCTANT ON ENTIRE MATTER. END SUMMARY
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1. AT NOVEMBER 14 BONN GROUP MEETING, US REP MADE PRESENTATION ALONG LINES REFTEL C, SUGGESTING THAT ENTIRE QUESTION OF NORTH-SOUTH FLIGHTS TO BERLIN BE RE-OPENED, CITING AS MAJOR IMPETUS RECENT THY AGREEMENT WITH INTERFLUG FOR SERVICE ISTANBUL-EAST BERLIN AND INTEREST WHICH ALITALIA HAS SHOWN IN EAST BERLIN FLIGHTS. US REP SAID PRESENT THINKING WAS TO OFFER WEST BERLIN LANDING RIGHTS TO THY, ALITALIA, AND TO YUGOSLAVS, AND THAT NO CONCLUSIONS HAD BEEN REACHED REGARDING WHETHER OR NOT TO WITHDRAW RIGHTS GRANTED AUA AND SAS.

2. FRENCH REP (BELLESCIZE) SUPPORTED US PROPOSAL, ADDING THAT IT WAS DOUBTFUL IF AIRLINE OF ANY NATO COUNTRY COULD OBTAIN THE NECESSARY GDR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS. DANES HAD BEEN TOLD IN EAST BERLIN THAT GDR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL SENAT/GDR TALKS AND UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN REACHED ON AIR MATTERS. BELLESCIZE ALSO NOTED THAT ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD FRENCH CHARGE IN EAST BERLIN THAT ALITALIA NOT INTERESTED IN WEST BERLIN SERVICE. ON OTHER HAND, YUGOSLAVS HAVE MADE SEVERAL APPROACHES FOR WEST BERLIN LANDING RIGHTS AND, SINCE THEY PROBABLY IN BEST POSITION TO OBTAIN GDR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS, HE WOULD FAVOR MAKING GRANT TO YUGOSLAVS, WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN BREAKING ICE WITH EAST GERMANS.

3. UK REP (CROMARTIE) SAID HE WAS GIVING HIS PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS SINCE HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, BUT HE THOUGHT IT BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL SITUATION WAS "CLARIFIED" AS RESULT OF ALLIED TALKS WITH SOVIETS ON LUFTHANSA ENTRY INTO THE BCZ. CROMARTIE SAW DANGERS OF POSSIBLY OFFEND-ING FRIENDLY COUNTRIES DURING SELECTION OF AIRLINES TO BE GRANTED WSB LANDING RIGHTS, OF POSSIBLE FINANCIAL LOSSES TO ALLIED AIRLINES NOW SERVING WEST BERLIN, AND OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH WOULD ARISE SHOULD GDR SUDDENLY DECIDE TO GRANT OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO ALL COMERS. UK REP STRESSED THAT SUBJECT SHOULD AWAIT COMPLETION OF ALLIED DEALING WITH SOVIETS ON LUFTHANSA/BCZ MATTER.

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SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 FAA-00 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /160 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8751
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 16595

US REP NOTED THAT ALLIED INACTION COULD ALSO CAUSE LOSS OF TRAFFIC, WITH IT GOING OVER TO EAST BERLIN. MORE-OVER, HE CONTINUED, IT WOULD BEHOOVE ALLIES POLITICALLY TO TAKE ACTION WHICH COULD PRESERVE OR REGAIN TRAFFIC NOW MOVING VIA EAST BERLIN.

4. FRG REP (KASTRUP) SAID HE WELCOMED US INITIATIVE AND SUPPORTED IT. HE SAID THAT TBE DUTCH HAD REQUESTED OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FROM THE GDR BUT HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN, WHICH, TOGETHER WITH DANISH EXPERIENCE, WOULD MAKE IT EASY IN NATO TO EXPLAIN OFFER OF LANDING RIGHTS TO YUGOSLAVS WHO SEEMED TO HAVE BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS
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WITH GDR.

5. FRENCH REP NOTED HE SAW TWO ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER IF ALLIES DID NOT WITH-DRAW RIGHTS GRANTED TO AUA AND TO SAS, AND HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT STANDING GREEK (AND POSSIBLY OTHER) APPLICATIONS COULD NOT BE IGNORED. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, EASIEST THING WOULD BE SIMPLY TO EXPLAIN IN NATO THAT FROM RECENT EXPERIENCES IT CLEAR THAT THE GDR NOT ABOUT TO GRANT OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO NATO COUNTRY

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AIRLINE SO ALLIES NOW TRYING SOMETHING ELSE, I.E., AN OFFER TO YUGOSLAVS.

6. ALLIED REPS THEN AGREED TO REPORT TO THEIR AUTHORITIE AND REQUEST VIEWS ON SUGGESTION RECOUNTED PARA 5 ABOVE BY FRENCH REP. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM CROMARTIE'S REMARKS, THOUGH "PRELIMINARY," WE EXPECT UK WILL NOT BE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH ANY PROPOSALS ON NORTH-SOUTH FLIGHTS UNTIL LUFTHANSA/BCZ PICTURE IS CLARIFIED. HILLENBRAND

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